

BAC Bellano Arte Cultura presents a widespread art project in dialogue between sacred works of the past and contemporary interventions

DEVOTA

Arte e sacro, territorio e comunità

From 16 May to 13 September

**San Nicolao Contemporary Art | Giancarlo Vitali Museum | Church of Saint Marta
Church of Saints Nazaro and Celso | Church of Saint Rocco | Church of Saint Andrea
Sanctuary of Our Lady of Tears**

curated by **Chiara Gatti**

from an idea by **Velasco Vitali**

As part of the 2026 annual programme *Essere uno con il tutto*, curated by artistic director **Chiara Gatti**, BAC Bellano Arte e Cultura presents *DEVOTA. Arte e sacro, territorio e comunità*, a widespread art project involving seven sites across Bellano, reactivated through the works of ten artists, with **Lucio Fontana** as the central reference of the exhibition.

The exhibition unfolds as an itinerary crossing churches, oratories and parish churches, winding through the village streets and along the **Sentiero del Viandante**. Within this context, contemporary works are inserted into sacred spaces in close relation to historical heritage and landscape, activating a direct dialogue with the territory.

At the heart of the project is the relationship between works and places: a 14th-century wooden Christ, 16th-century altarpieces, a Renaissance *Compianto*, Baroque tapestries, 17th-century slate paintings, medieval frescoes and Romanesque architecture host site-specific interventions, generating unprecedented juxtapositions and continuity of meaning across different eras. A key figure in the exhibition is **Lucio Fontana**, whose work *Concetto spaziale, Natura* (1967) is displayed at **San Nicolao Contemporary Art** courtesy of the **Fondazione Lucio Fontana**. Centred on the symbolism of the egg—often linked to Marian devotion—the work recalls themes of origin, cyclicity and ritual, offering a key to reading the entire project.

Also on view are works by **Alessandro Biggio, Gregorio Botta, Giammarco Cugusi, Cinzia Fiorese, Chiara Lecca, Mirco Marchelli, Daniela Novello, Matteo Pizzolante, and Paolo Ventura**.

The exhibition itinerary includes **San Nicolao Contemporary Art**, the **Giancarlo Vitali Museum**, the **Church of Saint Marta**, the **Church of Saints Nazaro and Celso**, the **Church of Saint Rocco**, the **Church of Saint Andrea** in Bonzeno and the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Tears** in Lezeno.

A programme of guided tours and art walks will accompany visitors along the different routes, encouraging participation by local communities and walkers while strengthening the connection between contemporary interventions and the territory.

THE ITINERARY

San Nicolao Contemporary Art - Street San Nicolao 9

The exhibition begins in the former Church of San Nicolao, where the presence of **Lucio Fontana's** *Concetto spaziale, Natura* (1967) introduces a reflection on the spiritual dimension of matter. Here, gold—long a symbol of ascension and transcendence—resonates directly with the 14th-century frescoes of Christ

Pantocrator in a golden-crowned mandorla, creating visual and symbolic continuity between tradition and contemporaneity.

In the niche is *Annunciazione dell'Angelo a Maria* by **Cinzia Fiorese**, reworking the tradition of gold grounds into abstract compositions evoking spiritual architectures and places of contemplation—rooms, cloisters and monastic cells—constructed through light, geometry and matter.

At the entrance, *Gli acrobati* by **Paolo Ventura** evokes a state of precarious balance in a metaphysical and unreal urban space. The figures, suspended between reality and fiction, become metaphors for the fragility of existence and human relationships.

On the roof trusses, the intervention by **Giammarco Cugusi** recalls the Michelangelesque tension of the **Sistine Chapel**: two mechanical arms and two work gloves almost touch in a contact never fulfilled. The artist paints the precise point at which separation becomes definitive and skin disappears behind material mediation, transforming distance into a structural element and questioning proximity, responsibility and separation.

Giancarlo Vitali Museum - Street Alessandro Manzoni 50

Chiara Lecca constructs a diffuse ex-voto made of organic elements and transformed materials. The exhibited works are characterised by ultramarine blue, recalling Marian tradition and questioning the relationship between natural and artificial, beauty and alteration, revealing the tension between humankind and the living world.

Blue Still Life, installed in the Sala delle Carni, consists of sixteen floral elements made from organic materials, some assembled together. In the artist's vision, flowers reflect humanity's desire to enter into relationship with the beauty of creation, testifying to our bond with living beings.

Church of Saint Marta - Square Santa Marta

In the heart of the old village, the Church of Saint Marta—an ancient Gothic confraternal oratory and home to the late-15th-century *Compianto sul Cristo morto*—hosts in its presbytery the intervention by **Gregorio Botta**. With *Grecale*, the artist arranges twelve music stands whose pages are stirred by wind: the breath becomes an invisible presence crossing the space and sowing unspoken words into the silence of the church, suggesting suspended temporality and continuity between matter and spirit, word and silence.

Church of Saints Nazaro and Celso - Square San Giorgio

The ceramics by **Mirco Marchelli**, *Di luce naturale* and *Serenata*, are inserted among the Renaissance altarpieces as contemporary relics. Recovered materials and fragments are recomposed into new forms, evoking devotional objects and suggesting a process of memory regeneration.

In the opposite nave is **Chiara Lecca's** second work, *Turquoise Fake Marble*. The installation consists of animal bladders assembled with everyday objects such as bowls and glass vessels. What emerges is something other than its constituent elements: a simulacrum where symbols of daily habit converge with the condition of organic living beings.

A short distance from the **Orrido di Bellano**, the church is distinguished by its 14th-century bichrome façade and ancient Romanesque structure, housing significant decorative cycles and Renaissance altarpieces.

Church of Saint Rocco - Street Bartolomeo Nogara 2

Located along an ancient crossroads of routes and pilgrimages, this 15th-century building—later remodelled—also preserves more recent memories linked to the war memorial.

Here **Matteo Pizzolante** reinterprets the ex-voto through AI-generated imagery and digital 3D simulations. *Dissection of a Snapshot* reconstructs the moments preceding road accidents, occupying a suspended space between document and imagination while questioning the nature of the contemporary image and its claim to truth.

Church of Saint Andrea - Bonzeno

Situated in a panoramic position above the village, this medieval church—renovated in the Baroque period and home to a significant 13th-century wooden crucifix—hosts a second icon by **Cinzia Fiorese**, *Carpaccio - Annunciazione*.

Also exhibited is **Daniela Novello's** intervention *Convivio*. It appears as a Eucharistic table, metaphor for a contemporary cenacle, where a large loaf form in pale pink Vicenza stone emerges as a suspended and inviolable presence.

The work establishes a maieutic dialogue with matter, whose intrinsic qualities—texture, colour and porosity—evoke bread without formal coercion. Manual workmanship reveals its latent potential, removing bread from objecthood and configuring it as an open sign capable of activating symbolic references between sacred tradition and contemporary reflection.

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Tears - Street of Lezzeno 11–13

Built in the 17th century following a miraculous event and rich in Baroque decorative apparatus and popular ex-voto collections, the sanctuary hosts **Alessandro Biggio's** *Studio di un Ritratto*.

A clay-soaked shroud hangs from the top of a niche like an orphaned burial cloth, entering into dialogue with the drapery of an ancient Passion scene. The work unfolds as a process: clay-modelled faces dissolve and are recomposed into new cloths, reflecting on identity, impermanence and transformation.

GUIDED TOURS AND ART WALKS

Guided tours and art walks accompany visitors on an immersive journey through the exhibition, led by **Chiara Gatti** together with the Custodians of Bellano's Heritage.

The calendar opens **Saturday 30 May at 3:30 pm** and continues **Friday 19 June at 10:30 am** with an itinerary through the symbolic sites: **San Nicolao Contemporary Art**, the **Giancarlo Vitali Museum**, and the churches of **Santa Marta**, **Saints Nazaro and Celso**, and **San Rocco**.

Further events follow **Saturday 25 July at 10:30 am** and **Saturday 8 August**, with an extended route to **Sant'Andrea** and the possibility of a packed lunch.

The final meeting takes place **Saturday 5 September at 10:30 am**, extending the route to **Lezzeno**, again with a packed lunch, allowing visitors to fully experience the dialogue between art, spirituality and landscape.

INFORMATION

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OPENING

Giancarlo Vitali Museum | San Nicolao Contemporary Art

Admission ticket required

Until 31 May

Monday to Friday, 10 am–6 pm

Saturday and Sunday, 9 am–7 pm

From 1 June

Daily, 9 am–7 pm

Church of Saint Marta | Church of Saints Nazaro and Celso | Sanctuary of Our Lady of Tears

Free admission | Daily, 10 am–6 pm

Church of Saint Rocco | Church of Saint Andrea

Free admission | Saturday 23 and 30 May, 13 and 27 June, 4 and 18 July, 15 August Church of Saint Rocco only, 29 August, 12 and 26 September, 11 am–1 pm.

1 San Nicolao Arte Contemporanea

LUCIO FONTANA
Concetto spaziale, Natura
PAOLO VENTURA
Gli acrobati PBA

GIAMMARCO CUGUSI

«In verità io vi dico: tutto quello che avete fatto a uno solo di questi miei fratelli più piccoli, l'avete fatto a me»
Matteo, 25,40

CINZIA FIORESE
Annunciazione dell'Angelo a Maria

2 Chiesa di Santa Marta

GREGORIO BOTTA
Grecale

3 Chiesa dei Santi Nazaro e Celso

MIRCO MARCHELLI
Di luce naturale
Serenata

CHIARA LECCA
Turquoise fake marble

4 Museo Giancarlo Vitali

CHIARA LECCA
Blue still life

5 Chiesa di San Rocco

MATTEO PIZZOLANTE
Dissection of a snapshot

6 Chiesa di Sant'Andrea, Bonzeno

DANIELA NOVELLO
"Convivio"

CINZIA FIORESE
Carpaccio - Annunciazione

7 Santuario della Madonna delle Lacrime, Lezeno

ALESSANDRO BIGGIO
Studio per un ritratto



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